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ORIG: [REDACTED]  
UNIT: [REDACTED]  
EXT: [REDACTED]  
DATE: 9 AUGUST 1972

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TO SAIGON

1000072 16 072

JMW [REDACTED] POO  
CITE DIRECTOR

EKH MEE LCP 280430

LJS JES

REF: SAIGON 52325 (IN 669871)\*

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Phoenix  
Sun. Phung Hoang

1. UNLESS WE MISREAD ALL RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PHUNG HOANG, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT ABSORPTION OF THIS PROGRAM BY THE NATIONAL POLICE AND EVENTUALLY BY THE SPECIAL BRANCH MEANS IN EFFECT THAT THE ORIGINAL CONCEPT OF GVN INTERAGENCY COORDINATED ACTION WILL LARGELY DISAPPEAR AND THAT THE SPECIAL BRANCH WILL CONTINUE TO DO ITS THING, BENEFITTING OF THE DOSSIERS ON VC WHICH HAVE BEEN BUILT UP AND SPARKED ONWARDS BY THE SENIOR PHUNG HOANG COMMITTEE WITH ITS CHANNELS TO PROVINCE CHIEFS. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THE GVN WISHES TO RETAIN THE PHUNG HOANG NAME AND THE COMMITTEE IN BEING IN ORDER TO GIVE SOMEWHAT GREATER NOTICE AND IMPETUS TO COUNTERINSURGENCY EFFORTS THAN A SIMPLE SPECIAL BRANCH PROGRAM, CALLED BY SOME OTHER NAME, MIGHT BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE. WHILE THERE MAY BE SOME BENEFIT TO THIS DEVICE ON THE VIETNAMESE SIDE, WE (ALONG WITH AID) WOULD BE HAPPIER DOING AWAY WITH THE PHUNG HOANG NAME SINCE WE COULD BE TARRED WITH MANY PAST SINS WHEN PHUNG HOANG BECOMES THE RESPONSIBILITY SOLELY OF THE SPECIAL BRANCH WITH ITS ACKNOWLEDGED BKTRUST ADVISORS. THE VALUE

- CONTINUED -

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PAGE TWO

CITE DIRECTOR

219430

TO [ OF CONTINUING TO HAVE A SENIOR COMMITTEE OPERATING UNDER SOME NAME OTHER ]  
 THAN PHUNG HOANG CAN BEST BE JUDGED BY THE STATION AND MISSION SINCE WE  
 ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE ACTUAL ACTIVITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS  
 COMMITTEE.

2. WE FULLY AGREE, PER PARA 2 REF, THAT WE SHOULD NOT GET LOCKED  
 INTO A NEW INLUTE INTERAGENCY ADVISORY AGREEMENT. WE ALSO AGREE, PER  
 PARA 3 REF, THAT IT IS VERY MUCH IN OUR INTEREST TO HAVE PUBLIC SAFETY  
 CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL POLICE.

3. OUR ONLY QUESTION IS WHETHER OUR ASSUMPTIONS IN PARA 1 ABOVE  
 ARE CORRECT: NAMELY, WHETHER THE ABSORPTION BY SPECIAL BRANCH OF THE  
 REMNANTS OF PHUNG HOANG IS GOING TO CHANGE MUCH OF WHAT THE SB IS  
 CURRENTLY DOING, AND WHETHER THE PHUNG HOANG COMMITTEE DOES HAVE AND  
 WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE AN ACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE FUNCTION.

4. FILE DEFER. EX-2 APDIR WN-SISM.

END OF MESSAGE

\* Relayed inquiry from George Jacobson whether Hqs had any general questions  
 on the transfer of the Phung Hoang program to the operational control of  
 the Special Police.

SAVA

AC/VNO

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